

anything in the Federal Constitution bars making the deliberate burning of the American flag an offense." Let me repeat: "It passes my belief that anything in the Federal Constitution bars making the deliberate burning of the American flag an offense."

Let us not let one more Memorial Day pass without clarifying and codifying that protection. Let us not let one more soldier, sailor, airman or marine nobly and unselfishly risk his life without honoring him and the ideals for which he is willing to die, without protecting the most sacred and visible symbol of his freedom.

Let us not let one more minute pass, without enacting into law, and sending to the states, this amendment to protect the flag under which so many—so many—were willing to, as one soldier-poet put it, "taste death in youth so that Liberty might grow old."

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, last week the Senate engaged in an emotionally charged debate about one of our nation's most precious and beloved symbols, the flag. American history is rich with examples of the significance of our flag. Francis Scott Key's lyrics equate our "star spangled banner" with the essence of our national identity, "the land of the free and the home of the brave." Betsy Ross is known to school children from the Aleutian Islands to the Florida Keys as the woman who painstakingly sewed our first flag. Many Senators referred to the raising of the flag by a handful of beleaguered, yet still brave, Marines on Iwo Jima. And who among us will ever forget the sight of Neil Armstrong planting the flag on the moon as he took that giant step for mankind. During the Judiciary Committee's hearings on S.J. Res. 14, the proposed Constitutional Amendment to protect the flag, Senator MCCAIN told of a fearless POW who fashioned a flag from scraps of material. Each night under threat of torture, an extraordinary group of prisoners displayed the makeshift flag and renewed their commitment to democracy and their courage to withstand a barbarous imprisonment.

As children, we started each day with our hands respectfully pressed to our hearts as we recited the pledge of allegiance. As Senators, we start the day in much the same manner, renewing our respect for this visible symbol of democracy.

Unlike Senator MCCAIN and Senator BOB KERRY, some of us have not served our country in the military. Our national pride, our fundamental courage, our commitment to country has not been tested on the battlefield, but just a few months ago, I stood in the well of this Chamber and, as my wife held the Bible on which my left hand rested, I swore to uphold the Constitution. The Constitution is the document that provides each citizen with broad rights. It doesn't fly majestically in front of government buildings. We do not pledge allegiance to it each day. Yet, it is the source of our freedom. It tells us that

we are free to assemble peacefully. We are free to speak and publish without fear of censorship. We are free to worship without interference; free from unlawful search and seizure; and free to choose our leaders. It is these freedoms that define what it is to be an American.

In its more than 200 years, the Constitution has been amended only 27 times. With the exception of the Eighteenth Amendment which was later repealed, these amendments have reaffirmed and expanded individual freedoms. This Resolution would not have expanded our rights. This Amendment, instead, would limit individual freedom.

As I think about this effort to amend the Constitution, I cannot help but conclude that in a free society, respect cannot be mandated. It springs from the heart. Furthermore, it seems ironic that the Senate would endeavor to protect this symbol of freedom by acting to limit the very freedom it represents.

I am gratified to know that Senator BOB KERREY, the only Member of the Senate who holds the Congressional Medal of Honor, and General Colin Powell, a living symbol of patriotism, also oppose this Resolution.

My heartfelt belief that this is the wrong approach was shaped by a man whose life was spent in a passionate struggle to protect and conserve the Constitution in the face of menacing threats. The early Twentieth Century was marked by World War I and by the Bolshevik Revolution, a time in world history during which the "Red Scare" was very real. Zechariah Chafee, a young Harvard Law professor and civil libertarian, wrote eloquently about "Freedom of Speech in Wartime." Zechariah Chafee argued that even during wartime the freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment must be upheld. He wrote, "[A] provision like the First Amendment to the federal Constitution is much more than an order to Congress not to cross the boundary which makes the extreme limits of lawful suppression. It is also an exhortation and a guide for the action of Congress inside that boundary. It is a declaration of a national policy in favor of the public discussion of all public questions." My great uncle had the courage to stand up for our Constitutional rights during a time of extremely high emotions in our national history. I am inspired by his example to defend that which separates this nation from all others—our freedoms.

#### NATIONAL ESTUARY CONSERVATION ACT

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, today, I rise to commend the Senate for passing, last Thursday, S. 835, the Estuary Habitat Restoration Partnership Act. Section 12 of this legislation is taken from legislation that I introduced, S. 878, with Senators BOXER, GREGG, MACK, GRAHAM, KENNEDY, LIEBERMAN, MOYNIHAN, REED, FEINSTEIN, KERRY, MURRAY, and SARBANES.

Today our nationally significant estuaries are threatened by pollution, development, or overuse. With 45 percent of the Nation's population residing in estuarine areas, there is a compelling need for us to promote comprehensive planning and management efforts to restore and protect them.

Estuaries are significant habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife because they provide safe spawning grounds and nurseries. Seventy-five percent of the U.S. commercial fish catch depends on estuaries during some stage of their life. Commercial and recreational fisheries contribute \$11 billion to the nation's economy and support 1.5 million jobs. Estuaries are also important to our nation's tourist economy for boating and outdoor recreation. Coastal tourism in just four states—New Jersey, Florida, Texas, and California—totals \$75 billion.

Due to their popularity, the overall capacity of our nation's estuaries to function as healthy productive ecosystems is declining. This is a result of the cumulative effects of increasing development and fast growing year round populations which increase dramatically in the summer. Nowhere is this more pronounced than New Jersey. At Barnegat Bay, the population doubles in the summer months.

Land development, and associated activities that come with people's desire to live and play near these beautiful resources, cause runoff and storm water discharges that contribute to siltation, increased nutrients, and other contamination. Bacterial contamination closes many popular beaches and shellfish harvesting areas in estuaries. Also, several estuaries are afflicted by problems that still require significant research. Examples include the outbreaks of the toxic microbe, *Pfiesteria piscicida*, in rivers draining to estuaries in Maryland and Virginia.

Congress recognized the importance of preserving and enhancing coastal environments with the establishment of the National Estuary Program in the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1987. The Program's purpose is to facilitate state and local governments preparation of comprehensive conservation and management plans for threatened estuaries of national significance. In support of this effort, Section 320 of the Clean Water Act authorized the EPA to make grants to states to develop environmental management plans. To date, 28 estuaries across the country have been designated. However, the law fails to provide assistance once plans are complete and ready for implementation. Already, 22 of the 28 plans are finished.

As the majority of plans are now in the implementation stage, it is incumbent upon us to maintain the partnership the Federal government initiated ten years ago to insure that our nationally significant estuaries are protected. S. 835 will take the next step by including language from S. 878 that will give EPA the authority to make

grants for plan implementation and authorize annual appropriations in the amount of \$25 million. I am also hopeful that when this bill goes to conference, this authorization can be increased to \$50 million. With such an increase areas will be able to upgrade sewage treatment plants, fix combined sewer overflows, control urban stormwater discharges, and reduce polluted runoff into estuarine areas.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, April 3, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,750,620,100,381.36 (Five trillion, seven hundred fifty billion, six hundred twenty million, one hundred thousand, three hundred eighty-one dollars and thirty-six cents).

Five years ago, April 3, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,873,481,000,000 (Four trillion, eight hundred seventy-three billion, four hundred eighty-one million).

Ten years ago, April 3, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,092,175,000,000 (Three trillion, ninety-two billion, one hundred seventy-five million).

Fifteen years ago, April 3, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,738,155,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred thirty-eight billion, one hundred fifty-five million).

Twenty-five years ago, April 3, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$504,572,000,000 (Five hundred four billion, five hundred seventy-two million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,246,048,100,381.36 (Five trillion, two hundred forty-six billion, forty-eight million, one hundred thousand, three hundred eighty-one dollars and thirty-six cents) during the past 25 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNITION OF GREG HART, TEACHER AT SKYLINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

• Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, throughout my great State of Washington, there are thousands of gifted students who need some extra time and attention to help further their talents. At Skyline Elementary in Ferndale, a teacher by the name of Greg Hart, has turned a program created by the school district into a tremendous success and created an environment where gifted students can excel. For his achievements with gifted students in the Aiming High program, I am proud to award him with my next "Innovation in Education" Award.

The Aiming High program consists of students from all over the Ferndale School Districts for gifted students in the top 1 to 2-percent of the district and was created by the Ferndale School District to encourage highly capable students to develop critical thinking and analytical skills, act re-

sponsibly and respectfully, and promote positive self-esteem. Mr. Hart's classes consists of fifth and sixth grade students.

Both the Ferndale Superintendent and Skyline Principal believe that Mr. Hart is the driving force behind the success of this program. One of the ways Mr. Hart improves student learning is by tackling issues of national and historical importance. Students must work together on research projects and give presentations to their classmates. One of the most recent projects was by two students who focused on race in the United States and how it was manifested on the baseball field. Mr. Hart believes that by empowering children, they become better learners and have the confidence to tackle topics and develop skills well-beyond their grade level.

Superintendent Roger Lenhart describes Mr. Hart as the model of an ideal teacher. His energy in the classroom motivates his students to not only to advance in their studies, but to also pursue goals and interests outside of the classroom. Mr. Hart also encourages his students to act responsibly and to treat others with respect.

Mr. Hart's students succeed in academic competitions, both under his tutelage and after, and he continue to guide his students well after they left the elementary school. I am told by Dr. Berres that it is not uncommon to see Mr. Hart's old students coming by his classroom to visit him and to update him on their current achievements. It is clear by the visits of his former students and praising words of the superintendent and principal that Mr. Hart makes an enormous impact on his students.

Educators like Greg Hart clearly demonstrate that it is the people that know our children's names—their parents, their teachers, their administrators, and their school board members—who will make the best decisions about their education. I applaud Mr. Hart's hard work and dedication to his students and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing his outstanding contribution to education.●

##### IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID AND DOREEN HERMELIN

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary couple from my home state of Michigan. David and Doreen Hermelin will be given the Dream Maker Award and the Rabbi Jacob Segal Award by Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit on June 6, 2000.

It is truly fitting that among the honors David and Doreen will receive is the Dream Maker Award. The Award is given to those who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the community and especially to Jewish education. It can be fairly said that David and Doreen are "Dream Makers," because they both have committed so much of their lives to making people's dreams come true.

One of David Hermelin's mottos is "The harder you work, the luckier you get." Thanks to his and Doreen's hard work, countless people in Metro Detroit have found themselves wealthy in luck as well. David and Doreen have opened their home for hundreds of charitable fundraisers, and their efforts on behalf of these good causes do not stop with opening their front door. They both have personally raised tens of millions of dollars for organizations that serve people in need in Michigan and in Israel as well. David's reputation as a fundraiser has become so widely recognized, in fact, that he has been known to joke that people wouldn't recognize him if his hand was in his pocket. But as he often notes, he asks people to contribute their time or talents to those in need "not until it hurts, but until it feels good." Maybe that's the secret to David and Doreen's seemingly endless capacity for helping others—it truly does feel good.

Added to all of their other accomplishments, David just finished an extraordinary tour as U.S. Ambassador to Norway. He and Doreen made a very positive impact on our relations with this great ally. They played a major role in arranging for a United States Presidential visit, the first in a long time, and when my wife Barbara and I visited Norway, it was obvious from everyone we met that our country could not have selected a greater representative and symbol of what we stand for.

David and Doreen Hermelin's commitment to helping others is truly worthy of recognition, not only by Hillel Day School of Metropolitan Detroit but also by all of us. I know my colleagues will join me in offering them congratulations on this special occasion and a heartfelt thank you for all that they have done.●

##### RECOGNIZING THE HUMANITARIAN WORK OF MR. JAMES KELLY IN MOLDOVA

• Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize one of my constituents, Mr. James Kelley of Fort Wayne, Indiana, for his humanitarian work in the country of Moldova.

Moldova is a small country located between Ukraine and Romania. Throughout the Cold War it was a part of the Soviet Union but recently gained its independence from the USSR on August 27, 1991. The United States has supported Moldova in its journey toward democracy and sovereignty.

I met with Moldovan President Petru Lucinschi last year in Washington. We discussed some of the challenges facing the newly independent Moldova. Our meeting revolved around U.S. security assistance including counter-proliferation training, efforts to combat organized crime and border security training. We also discussed our cooperation to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The United States and Moldova have enjoyed a positive